

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A developing sleeve for a magnetic brush developing unit, which is provided with a plurality of 5 axially parallel grooves formed at a predetermined pitch in the circumferential direction on the surface thereof, is disclosed. Each of the grooves and the interfacing portion between each groove and its adjacent circumferential surface curve gradually and 10 gently in section in the circumferential direction of the developing sleeve. The pitch for the formation of the grooves is set to be equal to or larger than the difference in travel length between the surface of the developing sleeve and that of a photosensitive drum 15 during the time required for a point on the photosensitive drum to move along the full length of a developing area.

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